

CLAIMS

I Claim:

1. A method of monitoring and recording factors that occur during a vacuum-based fetal extraction, comprising:

5 automatically counting a number of pulls made with a vacuum extraction cup that is attached to a fetal head;

automatically counting a number of times the vacuum extraction cup pops off the fetal head;

10 automatically counting an amount of time the vacuum extraction cup is attached to the fetal head;

automatically recording a maximum cup pressure detected during the time the vacuum extraction cup is attached to the fetal head; and

15 automatically counting an amount of time a cup pressure is within a predetermined percentage range of the maximum pressure detected during the time the vacuum extraction cup is attached to the fetal head.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein a pull detector detects a pull made with a vacuum extraction cup that is attached to a fetal head.

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3. The method of claim 1 wherein a pressure detector detects a pop-off of a vacuum extraction cup from a fetal head.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein a pressure detector and a clock are used to count the time the vacuum extraction cup is attached to the fetal head.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein a pressure detector detects, and then records a maximum cup pressure.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein a pressure detector and a clock are used to determine the amount of time a cup pressure is within a predetermined percentage range of the maximum pressure detected during the time the vacuum extraction cup is attached to the fetal head.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the act of automatically recording a pressure over a period of time.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising the act of automatically generating and storing a time-dependent cup pressure function.

9. The method of claim 1 further comprising recording at least one outcome factor.

5 10. The method of claim 1 further comprising recording an indication of pediatrician presence.

11. The method of claim 1 further comprising recording a forceps switch incident.

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12. The method of claim 1 further comprising recording an indication of the appearance of the fetal head upon delivery.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the appearance is recorded with at least one picture.

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14. The method of claim 1 further comprising recording at least one pre-procedure factor.

20 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the pre-procedure factor comprises at least a counseling reminder.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein the pre-procedure factor comprises at least a consent factor.

5 17. The method of claim 14 wherein the pre-procedure factor comprises at least an indication of cervical dilation.

18. The method of claim 14 wherein the pre-procedure factor comprises at least a fetal positioning factor.

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19. The method of claim 14 wherein the pre-procedure factor comprises at least a placement of cup factor.

20. In a computer system, a method of monitoring and recording factors that occur during a vacuum-based fetal extraction, comprising:

generating a pull counting variable;

generating a pop-off counting variable;

5 generating a first attachment duration variable;

generating a maximum cup pressure variable;

generating a near maximum cup pressure variable; and

generating a cup pressure over time variable.

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